

**COUNCIL:**

**28<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2019**

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**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND LEGAL  
SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER**

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**STANDARDS & ETHICS COMMITTEE - INDEPENDENT MEMBER  
APPOINTMENTS**

**Reason for this Report**

1. To seek Council's approval for the appointment of 3 independent members of the Standards and Ethics Committee to fill vacancies which have arisen.

**Background**

2. The Constitution provides that the Standards & Ethics Committee shall have five independent members, three county councillors and one community councillor – Constitution Article 9.2(a).
3. Three vacancies have arisen for independent members of the Committee following the resignations of 2 members (Lizz Roe and Hugh Thomas) due to personal circumstances and the expiry of the second term of office of the previous Chair, Richard Tebboth.
4. The Committee has elected a new Chair, James Downe, and Vice-Chair, Hollie Edwards-Davies, with effect from 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019.

**Issues**

5. As the Constitution requires the Standards and Ethics Committee to have five Independent Members, the Council needs to make three new appointments to fill the vacancies.
6. The appointment of members of the Standards and Ethics Committee is governed by the Standards Committees (Wales) Regulations 2001 (as amended) ("the Regulations") and the Council's Constitution.
7. The Regulations require a public recruitment process to be followed for an Independent Member vacancy, specifically, the Council must:

- a) advertise the vacancies in at least 2 newspapers circulating in its area, and may additionally advertise the vacancies in its own newspaper;
  - b) set selection criteria and publish those criteria in the advertisement of the vacancies;
  - c) establish an Appointments Panel, comprised of up to five panel members, and including one lay panel member and one Cardiff community councillor; and
  - d) arrange for the Appointments Panel to assess all applications against the published criteria and make recommendations on the appointments to Council for approval.
8. The Regulations provide that an Independent Member's term of office must be set at between four and six years.
9. In accordance with the requirements of the Regulations, the vacancies have been advertised (in the Western Mail July 2019 and South Wales Echo July 2019). The vacancies have also been published through the Council's Website, a media brief and social media links; and shared with Elected Members, Community Council Clerks, WLGA and partner networks including Third Sector Council and in particular minority and disability groups to encourage applications from a more diverse group of candidates.
10. An Appointments Panel comprised of Kate Thomas CVO, JP, as lay panel member; Community Councillor Stuart Thomas and Hollie Edwards-Davies Vice Chair of the Standards & Ethics Committee, Independent Member has assessed all applications received against the published criteria, and shortlisted and interviewed candidates.
11. The Appointments Panel has recommended the appointment of 3 new independent members: Jason Bartlett, Chrissie Nicholls and Arthur Hallett, subject to receipt of satisfactory references.

### **Legal Implications**

12. The legal implications are contained within the body of the report.

### **Financial Implications**

13. There are no financial considerations beyond the cost of the recruitment advert, which will be met from within the Directorate budget.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Council is recommended to approve the appointment of (1) Jason Bartlett, (2) Chrissie Nicholls and (3) Arthur Hallett, as independent members of the Standards and Ethics Committee, for a term of 4 years, subject to the receipt of satisfactory references.

**Davina Fiore**

**Director of Governance and Legal Services and Monitoring Officer**

22 November 2019

### **Background papers:**

Standards and Ethics Committee report, 'Independent Members and Chair of the Committee – Update', 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019